

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/826,700

Examiner

Chirag G. Shah

Applicant(s)

FUHRMANN ET AL.

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to 3/28/07.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 7 and 8; renumbered claims 1-2 respectively.
3. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All
 - b) Some*
 - c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
1) hereto or 2) to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of
Paper No./Mail Date _____.Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

CHIRAG G. SHAH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

Attachment(s)

1. Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. Other _____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with David Cordeiro on 4/10/07.

The application has been amended as follows:

7. (currently amended) A network comprising:

a plurality of network nodes ~~{as claimed in claim 6}~~, characterized in that the network nodes are directly coupled to each other via at least one star node;

the at least one star node includes a plurality of star interfaces that are assigned to at least one respective network node, with one star interface transferring data, in dependence on a pilot signal varying frequency, from the assigned respective network node to the other star interfaces or from another star interface to the assigned respective network node,

pilot signal evaluation circuit generates a send control signal and activates the send control signal if a pilot signal has been sent by the assigned network node and no other star interface having a higher priority has simultaneously sent a pilot signal from the network node assigned to this other star interface,

a star interlace is provided for transferring data from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces only when the send control signal is activated,

each star interface includes a first and second switching amplifiers, the first switching amplifier in an activated state passes data from the assigned network node to the other star interfaces, and the second switching amplifier in an activated state passes data from the other star interfaces to the assigned network node, and in the event of receiving the active send control signal, the first switching amplifier is in an active state and the second switching amplifier is in a non-active state,

a decision circuit evaluates the send control signals of all the star interfaces, and with a simultaneous occurrence of various send control signals corresponding to the simultaneous arrival of at least two pilot signals at respective star interfaces, the decision circuit releases via a decision control signal a certain star interface for the transmission of data, and

the decision circuit includes a chain of in-line decision elements each having an OR gate [in] that [each OR gate] combines the output signal of the previous decision element with a local send request signal generated by the pilot signal evaluation circuit and indicating the presence of the pilot signal, [and in that] the output signal of an OR gate [is] being the decision control signal for the star interface assigned to the next decision element in the chain.

8. (currently amended) A network as defined in claim 7, characterized in that wherein the decision circuit includes a decision decoder decoding the send control signals, and a 1-from-m decoder receiving the output signals of the decision decoder, which 1-from-m decoder generates a respective decision control signal for the respective star interfaces.

In the Specification page 1, in the line 2 of the Title, "mode" has been changed to "node".

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In the Specification page 1, after title, "SUMMARY OF INVENTION" has been inserted.

In the Specification page 3, line 5, "BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS" has been inserted.

In the Specification page 3, line 15, "DETAILED DESCRIPTION" has been inserted.

Reasons For Allowance

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Prior Art fails to disclose of the decision circuit that includes a chain of in-line decision elements each having an OR gate that combines the output signal of the previous decision element with a local send request signal generated by the pilot signal evaluation circuit and indicating the presence of the pilot signal, the output signal of an OR gate being the decision control signal for the star interface assigned to the next decision element in the chain in combination with other limitations set forth in the respective claims.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Chirag G. Shah whose telephone number is 571-272-3144. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Wellington Chin can be reached on 571-272-3134. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

cgs

April 10, 2007



**CHIRAG G. SHAH
PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER**

Chirag G. Shah
Primary Examiner, 2616